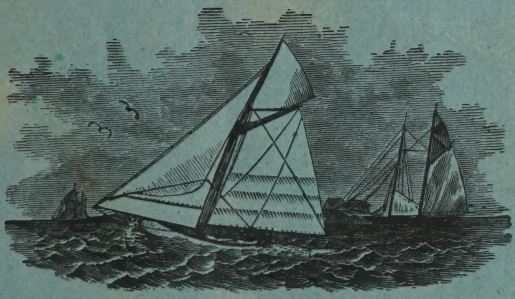
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Buzzards Bay

BOATMEN'S

ASSOCIATION.



FIRST ORGANIZED, OCT. 1889.

F. B. & F. P. GOSS, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
HYANNIS, MASS.

BY-LAWS.

Article 1. Name.

This association shall be called the Buzzards Bay Boatmen's Association.

Article 2. Objects.

The objects of this association are securing and enforcing proper and necessary laws for the protection of the fishing interests of Buzzards Bay; as incidental to this general object, the detection and punishment of all criminals offending against these laws without fear or favor and in a spirit of mutual co-operation and assistance.

Article 3. Membership.

The membership of this association shall consist of active and honorary members. Any person may become an active member of this association by signing these By-Laws and paying the sum of one dollar as an entrance fee, provided such person be either approved orally or in writing by the President or either Vice President of this association, as a suitable person for membership, or elected by ballot, and provided further that such person draws his living or some portion of it from boating, fishing or the taking or cultivation of shell fish in the waters of Buzzards Bay. Any person shall cease to be a member upon being convicted of any violation of the fish laws, by being expelled by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the association present and voting at a meeting notified for that purpose, or by failure to pay any due or assessment within thirty days after being notified of the same by the Treasurer of the Association.

Honorary members may become such by a subscription of at least $5.00 to the purposes of this organization and by payment of annual dues of five dollars ($5.00). They shall not be liable to assessments. Persons who have rendered distinguished services to the cause of protection to fishing in Buzzards Bay may, by vote of the association, become honorary members without the payment of dues until such choice is revoked by a vote of the association. Unless otherwise provided, any member of the association, honorary or active, is eligible to hold the offices of the association.

Article 4. Officers.

The officers of the association shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents (one of whom at least must be an active member, and who shall be called First and Second Vice Presidents), a Treasurer and Secretary. These officers shall have the ordinary duties of their respective offices and shall be chosen by ballot annually at the regular Monthly Meeting in the month of August, and shall hold until their successors are duly chosen and ready to act.

The treasurer shall keep books of his receipts and disbursements, give a receipt for all moneys received and pay out money only on an order in writing approved by the President or one of the Vice Presidents.

Article 5. Meetings.

Regular meetings shall be held at Monument Beach, unless otherwise ordered by the association, on the 2d Saturday of each month at 7.30 P. M. Special meetings may be called by the President or any Vice President, giving as full notice as the nature of the case will permit. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be eight, though a less number may adjourn.

Article 6. Committees.

There shall be four standing committees in the association, to be chosen by the association at its annual meeting and to hold until others are ready to act in their stead. The President of the association shall be a member of each of these committees but each committee shall elect its own chairman from its own numbers.

These four committees shall be respectively called the Vigilance Committee, the Finance Committee, the Oyster Committee and the Entertainment Committee.

Section 2. Vigilance Committee.—

This Committee shall consist of eight (8) active members together with the President of the association. It shall be the duty of this Committee to have especial charge of the detection and punishment of crimes against the fish laws including the oyster laws, to keep themselves posted as to these laws and see that they are enforced; their chairman is empowered at the expense of the association to take legal advice; to offer rewards; to employ agents and pay the same. The members of this committee shall receive a fair compensation for time expended in carrying out their duties. All fines and forfeitures recovered by their aid or information shall belong to the association. The chairman of this committee is empowered to call upon any active member of this association for assistance. Any member refusing to assist as re-

quested without excuse satisfactory to the association, shall be reported to the next meeting and to the association, and shall forfeit all claim to membership and be expelled, and at no time again become a member of this association. Any member when so serving shall be entitled to the right of a member of the Vigilance Committee for the time being.

It shall be the further duty of this committee to see that proper laws are maintained for fishing in Buzzards Bay, and shall use all efforts with the Legislature to that effect. They shall designate one of their number to serve as a police officer of the town, county, and state if possible.

The member so designated shall be prepared to act on his rights and duties as such officer at short notice. Money from either dues or assessments may be used for the purposes of this article but no money shall be paid out by the Treasurer except upon a written order signed by the President or Vice President and countersigned by the chairman of the Vigilance Committee, if he be not the President of the association.

SECTION 3. FINANCE COMMITTEE.—

This committee shall consist of four members together with the President. It shall be their duty to increase the funds and membership of the Association and use their personal solicitation with all persons interested or whom they can induce to have interested for that purpose. It shall be their duty to investigate all cases of financial difficulty from sickness, misfortune or otherwise among active members, and report all worthy cases to the Association, and recommend an assessment in their discretion for the financial alleviation of such persons.

They may accept repayment of any sums so advanced by the association and return them to the treasury of the association.

Such sums shall with such proportion of all assessments as the association may determine constitute a reserve fund for similar purposes. This reserve fund shall not at any time be exhausted or diverted for any other purpose. No money from dues or assessments for these purposes shall be used for any purpose hereinbefore stated. All money raised for the purpose of this section shall be expended under the direction of the Finance Committee and upon orders upon the Treasurer, signed by the President or Vice President and countersigned by the chairman of the Finance Committee if he be other than the President of the association.

SECTION 4. OYSTER COMMITTEE.—

This committee shall consist of two active members together with the President, and shall have general charge of the interests of the oyster fisheries of the Bay. Two at least of the members of

this Committee shall be practically engaged in the oyster culture. It shall be the duty of this committee to receive complaints of any violation of the oyster laws, to investigate the same and to report the same to the Vigilance Committee; to cooperate with and take instructions from the chairman of the Vigilance Committee as to prosecution and conviction of the same, and while so doing shall have the rights of members of that committee; to see that proper rules apply to the granting of oyster licenses; that the proper persons receive such grants and that improper persons do not; to assist in maintaining suitable laws concerning the same and in general to protect the oyster interests of Buzzards Bay.

SECTION 5. ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.—

This committee shall consist of six members together with the President. They shall have power to add to their members. It shall be the duty of this committee to provide suitable social entertainment at the meetings of the association, and they are further charged with the duty of arranging such entertainments as may seem advisable to thereby raise funds for the general benefit of the purposes of this association.

SECTION 6. COMPENSATION AND DUTY.—

Except so far as hereinbefore provided, members of the committee and officers of the association shall serve without compensation and it shall be considered the duty of all members, whether committee men or not, to give a cheerful and unselfish assistance to the general good.

ARTICLE 7. ASSESSMENTS AND DUES.

Active members shall pay an annual due of one dollar ($1.00) payable at the Annual Meeting in August.

The association may by a majority vote of its members present and voting at any meeting of which seven days' notice in writing shall have been given by the Secretary to each member, levy an assessment on members of the association, payable at a time mentioned. Such assessment shall not exceed the sum of five dollars ($5.00) at any time.

ARTICLE 8. AMENDMENTS.

These by-laws may be amended at the annual meeting or at any meeting before which seven days' notice of the proposed change has been given, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, except Section 3d, of Article 6, which shall require a unanimous vote.